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114, APOLLO STREET,  
 FORT,  
 BOMBAY,  
 July 19, 1951.

EDITORS

### 13. MORNING AND EVENING BIRD CALLS

The following observations on the succession of bird calls at dawn and dusk were taken on May 7, August 2 and 3, 1951. They were recorded in the Forest Office compound at Ranchi. This compound is about 26 years old. Both large and small trees occur, some of them being very old. Hedges, bushes, seasonal flowers, and open spaces with grass are all intermixed. Sometimes rare birds are met as winter visitors which are not found in any other compound in the neighbourhood. My conclusions are not definite, but generally it may be said that at the commencement of the breeding season in May, the Black Drongo starts calling earliest; whereas when young birds are about, the crows and mynas are the earliest risers. The end of calling is even more indefinite in the evening, but it would appear that the drongo, crow, and the mynas are the last to call before retiring. Of course, in moonlight, the Koel keeps up its chatter intermittently throughout the night; whilst the Spotted Owlet is also generally vocal at all hours of the night.

May 7, 1951.

- 4.05 a.m. Soft calls of Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*).
- 4.07 „ Second drongo joined in from the western side.
- 4.08 „ The Koel (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) followed.
- 4.09 „ The second Koel joined in.
- 4.11 „ Two drongos and Koels.
- 4.13 „ Another drongo from a different quarter.
- 4.15 „ Koels and drongos at a high pitch, from all directions.
- 4.16 „ A lull.
- 4.40 „ Drongos and Koels.
- 4.41 „ Koel, House Crow (*Corvus splendens*).
- 4.42 „ Koel, crow, Dhayal (*Copsychus saularis*) in low pitch.
- 4.43 „ Dhayal, Koel, Common Myna, (*Sturnus tristis*).
- 4.45 „ Second myna took part; Dhayal in full song; Koel.
- 4.46 „ Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*) joined in.
- 4.48 „ Second Black-headed Oriole from a different quarter joined in; Dhayal, 2 Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) passing the compound and calling.
- 4.49 „ Dhayal, myna, Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*).
- 4.50 „ Second bulbul joined in; Myna, Crow, Koel.
- 4.51 „ Bulbul, myna, Koel, drongo, Dhayal, all at a high pitch.
- 4.52 „ Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*), Pied Myna (*Sturnus contra*), Common Myna, bulbul.

- 4.53 a.m. Tonk-tonk of Crimson-breasted Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*); Drongo.
- 4.54 ,, White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*); Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, Koel, barbet, Baya (*Ploceus philippinus*).
- 4.55 ,, Barbet, Pied Myna, Myna.
- 4.56 ,, Pied Myna, barbet, Koel, Dhayal.
- 4.57 ,, Pied Mynas, White-eyes, Dhayal.
- 4.58 ,, Crows, Yellow-cheeked Tits (*Parus xanthogenys*), Dhayal, Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), Night Heron.
- 4.59 ,, Another dove from the west.
- 5.00 ,, Another dove from the east; Yellow-cheeked Tits, barbets.
- 5.01 ,, All doves together, myna, Koel, barbet.
- 5.03 ,, Koel, bulbul, myna, tits.
- 5.04 ,, Crow, drongo, dove.
- 5.05 ,, House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), crow, bulbul.
- 5.06 ,, Sparrow, dove, and bulbul.
- 5.07 ,, Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), occasionally calling.
- 5.08 ,, Bulbul, dove, Baya, myna.
- 5.09 ,, Pariah Kite (*Milvus migrans*) gave a few screams.
- 5.12 ,, Baya, dove, Koel, myna.
- 5.13 ,, Two owlets chuckling together.
- 5.14 ,, Bulbul, Pied Myna, Common Myna at high pitch.
- 5.15 ,, Drongo started calling again.
- 5.16 ,, Two drongos together, two owlets, Baya.
- 5.17 ,, Bulbul, Koel, Pied Myna, Common Myna.
- 5.19 ,, Small Minivets (*Pericrocotus peregrinus*) calling.
- 5.20 ,, Dhayal.
- 5.21 ,, Barbet, drongo, dove.
- 5.22 ,, A lull.
- 5.23 ,, One Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*) taking short flight but not calling.
- 5.24 ,, Dove, Koel, myna.
- 5.25 ,, Doves, orioles, Dhayal.
- 5.27 ,, Bulbul, Pied Myna, sparrow, Baya.
- 5.28 ,, Koel, dove, Baya.
- 5.29 ,, Dove tits.
- 5.31 ,, Owlets, Marhatta Woodpeckers, (*Dendrocopus mahrattensis*),
- 5.32 ,, Drongo, tits, myna.
- 5.33 ,, Pied Myna, Common Myna, Koel, bulbul, dove, continuing.

The morning was cloudy, and a light westerly breeze was blowing. The ground was wet due to heavy rain the previous night. Sunrise, about 5.33 a.m.; temperature: maximum, 103°F; minimum, 75°F.

Evening Observations; sunset at 6.23 p.m.

- 6.24 p.m. Pied Myna, myna, dove, Koel.
- 6.25 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.
- 6.27 ,, Drongo, tits.

- 6.28 p.m. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), making a lot of noise on a mango tree.
- 6.30 ,, Drongo, Koel, parakeets.
- 6.31 ,, Myna; Dhayal singing softly.
- 6.32 ,, Pied Mynas, several together.
- 6.33 ,, A lull.
- 6.35 ,, Bulbul, drongo, myna.
- 6.36 ,, Owlets, bulbul, drongo.
- 6.39 ,, Drongo, bulbul, myna.
- 6.40 ,, Barbet, Pied Myna, Common Myna, Koel.
- 6.41 ,, Plaintive *swee-swee* of Dhayal; Koel, crow.
- 6.43 ,, A lull.
- 6.44 ,, Owlets, House Swift (*Apus affinis*).
- 6.45 ,, Second owlet joined in; drongo.
- 6.47 ,, Pied Myna, Koel, drongo, crow.
- 6.48 ,, Drongo, Koel, crow.
- 6.49 ,, A lull.
- 6.51 ,, Drongo, owlet, Koel.
- 6.52 ,, Koels at high pitch.
- 6.53 ,, Drongos, Koels.
- 6.55 ,, Koel, myna.
- 6.56 ,, *Swee-ee* and *Chr-r* of a Dhayal.
- 6.57 ,, Drongo, myna.
- 6.58 ,, Drongo, koel.
- 6.59 ,, Koel, drongo, continuing.
- 7.00 ,, Perfect silence prevails after the day's hard struggle for food, nest building, etc. All fast asleep.

*August 2, 1951.*

- 5.00 a.m. House Crow.
- 5.02 ,, Myna.
- 5.03 ,, Second crow and myna join in.
- 5.05 ,, Pied Mynas join the Common Mynas.
- 5.06 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, crows.
- 5.07 ,, A lull.
- 5.10 ,, Koels from different directions.
- 5.12 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, owlet.
- 5.14 ,, Second owlet joined in, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, crows.
- 5.15 ,, Bulbul, mynas.
- 5.16 ,, Second bulbul came in.
- 5.17 ,, Bulbul, mynas.
- 5.18 ,, All silent.
- 5.26 ,, Crow, Koel.
- 5.27 ,, Another crow from the west.
- 5.28 ,, Another crow from the east.
- 5.29 ,, All crows together, Koels.
- 5.30 ,, Tits, dove, Pied Myna.
- 5.31 ,, Second dove, tit, bulbuls.
- 5.32 ,, Another tit joined; doves, bulbuls.
- 5.33 ,, Four doves in chorus; Koel.

- 5.34 a.m. A lull.  
 5.40 ,, Soft call of a Dhayal.  
 5.42 ,, Doves, tits, bulbuls.  
 5.43 ,, Doves, tits, and koels at high pitch.  
 5.44 ,, Crows, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 5.46 ,, Koels, crows, mynas.  
 5.50 ,, Small party of White-eyes hunting amongst the foliage of a Toon (*Cedrela toona*) tree, and uttering jingling notes all the time.  
 5.51 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, bulbul, White-eye.  
 5.53 ,, Two Night Herons were going to their roosting grounds and *kwaak*-ing all the time; Dhayal.  
 5.54 ,, Koel, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 5.56 ,, A drongo whistling from the north; doves.  
 5.57 ,, Doves, crows, Koels.  
 5.58 ,, Another drongo from the east, Pied Mynas, doves.  
 6.00 ,, White-eyes, mynas, doves.  
 6.03 ,, Small Minivets, doves.  
 6.04 ,, A lull.  
 6.08 ,, Doves, crow, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, bulbul.  
 6.09 ,, Crows, mynas, doves.  
 6.10 ,, Doves, mynas, kite, and a Scavenger Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) flying about but not calling.  
 6.11 ,, Two young Koels making a noise while being fed by a crow.  
 6.12 ,, Young Koels, barbet, bulbul.  
 6.13 ,, A lull.  
 6.16 ,, Barbet, crows.  
 6.18 ,, Tits.  
 6.19 ,, Mynas, bulbuls, tit.  
 6.20 ,, Silence.  
 6.28 ,, Parakeets.  
 6.29 ,, Shahin Falcon (*Falco peregrinus peregrinator*) flying low but not calling; Pied Mynas give alarm.  
 6.30 ,, Parakeets, barbet, myna, bulbul, young Koel, Tickell's Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum erythrorhynchum*).  
 6.33 ,, Small Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) sitting on a branch but not calling.  
 6.34 ,, Mynas, doves, barbet.

Sunrise approximately at 6.35 a.m. The morning was very cloudy, and it was difficult to observe the exact instant at which the sun rose. There was no wind, and the morning was very calm and motionless.

Evening; sunset approximately at 6.25 p.m.

- 6.26 p.m. Young Koels, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 6.27 ,, Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Pied Mynas, young Koels.  
 6.28 ,, Pied Mynas, doves.  
 6.29 ,, Koel, Common Myna, young Pied Mynas.  
 6.30 ,, Mynas, crow.

- 6.31 p.m. Young Koel; 4 crows together; Koel.  
 6.33 ,, Young Koels, Koels, crows.  
 6.34 ,, Pied Myna, Common Myna, Koel.  
 6.35 ,, Mynas.  
 6.37 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, crow.  
 6.38 ,, A lull.  
 6.39 ,, Barbet, Pied Myna.  
 6.42 ,, Second barbet took part; Pied Mynas.  
 6.43 ,, Two drongos, crows.  
 6.44 ,, White-eyes, crows.  
 6.45 ,, Drongo, barbet, crow, Pied Myna.  
 6.46 ,, Owlet, drongo; Koel, two from different directions.  
 6.47 ,, Another owlet, Shahin Falcon, young Koels.  
 6.48 ,, A lull.  
 6.50 ,, Young Koels, crows, Night Herons going to feed.  
 6.51 ,, Complete silence.  
 7.00 ,, Two Koels from north and south, owlet.

Evening cloudy, still and hot. Sun not visible for the most part.  
 Sunset observed with difficulty.

*August 3, 1951.*

- 5.10 a.m. Myna.  
 5.12 ,, Several mynas joined in.  
 5.15 ,, Two Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, crow.  
 5.21 ,, Several Pied Mynas, Common Mynas in chorus, crow.  
 5.22 ,, Owlet, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 5.23 ,, Second owlet from a different quarter, mynas.  
 5.25 ,, Pied Mynas.  
 5.27 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, Crow.  
 5.29 ,, Koel, Common Mynas, Pied Mynas.  
 5.30 ,, Another Koel took part.  
 5.32 ,, Two Koels together, Pied Mynas.  
 5.34 ,, Third Koel from the north, crows.  
 5.36 ,, Koel from the north, mynas.  
 5.37 ,, Silence.  
 5.50 ,, Crows, young Koels, Pied Mynas.  
 5.51 ,, Crows, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 5.53 ,, Crows, Koels, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 5.54 ,, Two Night Herons called while passing the compound.  
 5.56 ,, Two crows making noise while feeding young Koels.  
 5.57 ,, Koels, mynas.  
 5.58 ,, Parakeet.  
 6.00 ,, Bulbul.  
 6.01 ,, Bulbul, Pied Mynas.  
 6.03 ,, Bulbul, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 6.04 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, Crow, White-eyes.  
 6.08 ,, Bulbul, crows, mynas.

- 6.09 a.m. Dove.  
 6.10 ,, Dove, mynas.  
 6.12 ,, Young Koels, dove, mynas.  
 6.13 ,, Parakeet, dove.  
 6.15 ,, Second dove joined in; crows.  
 6.17 ,, Flowerpeckers, dove, young Koels.  
 6.18 ,, Barbet, doves.  
 6.20 ,, Bulbuls, barbet.  
 6.21 ,, White-eyes, dove.  
 6.23 ,, Mynas, dove, crow.  
 6.24 ,, Two Koels, crows, mynas.  
 6.26 ,, Doves, Koels, crows, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 6.27 ,, Barbet, bulbul.  
 6.28 ,, Koels, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, crows.  
 6.29 ,, Two Doves, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas.  
 6.30 ,, Barbet, bulbul, young Koels.  
 6.31 ,, Young Koels, crows, mynas.

Raining heavily; time of sunrise not observed.

Evening; sunset approximately 6.25 p.m.

- 6.30 p.m. Mynas, barbet, young Pied Mynas.  
 6.32 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, barbet, young Koel.  
 6.33 ,, Koel, barbet, Pied Mynas, mynas.  
 6.34 ,, Mynas, young Pied Mynas.  
 6.35 ,, Young Pied Mynas, young Koel.  
 6.36 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, dove.  
 6.37 ,, Barbet, Mynas, Dove.  
 6.38 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, barbet.  
 6.39 ,, Mynas, barbet.  
 6.40 ,, Parakeet, House Swift, barbet, mynas.  
 6.41 ,, Pied Mynas, Common Mynas, barbet, Koel from the west.  
 6.42 ,, Koel, young Mynas, Mynas.  
 6.44 ,, A lull.  
 6.45 ,, Crow, young Koels, Koels.  
 6.46 ,, Crows, young Koels, mynas.  
 6.47 ,, Two drongos, dove, crows, young mynas.  
 6.48 ,, Crows.  
 6.49 ,, Drongo from the west; crows.  
 6.50 ,, Silence.  
 6.51 ,, Drongo, crow, young myna, owlet.  
 6.52 ,, Two owlets together, mynas, crows.  
 6.54 ,, Six Night Herons going to their feeding grounds; crows, drongo.  
 6.55 ,, Silence.

The evening was clear and hot, but the sun was partly obscured, thus making time of sunset difficult to observe.

Several birds visit this compound for breeding only, e.g. Baya and Sparrow, and are not seen thereafter. Others like the Grey Shrike and the oriole are more common in the cold weather, and the drongo comes only occasionally, mostly in the evening after the breeding



season. Night Herons and Cattle Egrets do not live here, but only pass through. The Shahn Falcon and the woodpecker are irregular visitors.

JAMAL ARA

#### 14. STRAY BIRD NOTES FROM TIBET

I have just returned from what is, I fear, my last trip in Tibet. I visited Lhakhang Dzong which you will find on the Tibet-Bhutan border where the Lhobrak river pierces the Himalaya. The existence of an opening in the Himalaya makes it possible for South Himalayan birds to enter Tibet and I am sure that if it ever becomes possible for any observer to stay in that area, the number of Himalayan species recorded with a Tibetan distribution will be increased.

The country for some 30-40 miles up the Lhobrak river in Tibet has a mixed deciduous (mainly birch) and conifer forest and I found the following birds as far up as to within 4 miles of Se (Tse).

Nutcracker. The Himalayan species *hemispila*.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*).

Himalayan Cole Tit (*Lophophanes ater aemodius*).

Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus monticolus*).

Himalayan Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus himalayensis*).

Red-flanked Bush Robin (*Tanithia cyanura rufilata*).

These were all numerous.

In the same area there were Snow Pigeons (*Columba leuconota*) Blue-headed Redstarts (*P. frontalis*) and Accentors (*Prunella strophiata*). Also the same laughing thrush which is common on the Tibet side of the Nathu La (which I think is *Trochalopteron affine affine*), a pipit, probably Richard's, (*Anthus richardi*) and the Himalayan Jungle Crow (*Corvus m. intermedius*).

At the Pemaling Ishho (Lake) I saw a flock of over 30 Hodgson's Grandala, Rubythroats, a *Laiscopus* which I took to be *collaris nivalensis*, *Prunella atrogularis*, Bluethroat, *Chaimarrhornis leucocephala*, also Gldenstadt's Redstart and the Eastern Indian Redstart, a chat like the Indian Bush Chat but without an orange-red breast.

I may add that in the deciduous/conifer forest area I saw twice, but never distinctly, a dark blue bird with whitish sides which I thought might be Hodgson's Shortwing.

I find from my notes of past years that a bird I saw in a valley off the Brahmaputra near Samye and in other places, appears to be the Daurian Redstart, and that there is a martin in many parts of Tibet which is neither the Crag Martin nor the Sand Martin but has a much shinier black on the wings and body and a conspicuously white rump. It looks like a House Martin but I do not think Ludlow mentions this in his Bhutan list.

c/o GRINDLAY'S BANK,  
6, CHURCH LANE,  
CALCUTTA,  
November 7, 1950.

H. E. RICHARDSON